

WHAT'S ON - FEBRUARY

THIS MONTH'S EDITORS:
PENNY JONES AND JESSICA CLOAKE

TUESDAY 24		WEDNESDAY 4		THURSDAY 5		FRIDAY 18		SATURDAY 19, 21	
FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL: COFFEE 10.30am	MUSICAL SOIREE & SUPPER 7.15pm	FIRST WEDNESDAY Discussion Group 12.45-2.15pm	IN THE MOOD: MUSICAL SOIREE & SUPPER 7.15pm	FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL: LUNCH 12noon	PLAIN & PEARL SOCIAL CRAFTING 7.30pm	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES 9.30am & 7.30pm	NEWSLETTER BUNDLING 2.30pm	PARISH PLOD 9.30am	ALL-AGE PARISH EUCHARIST 10am
Shambles Restaurant	St. Mary's Parish Hall	St. Mary's Parish Hall	St. Mary's Parish Hall	Piazza Firenze	Mina Hogan Room	Mina Hogan Room	St. Mary's Parish Hall	SMwSA to Richmond Park	SMwSA Church
SUNDAY 15		MONDAY 16		TUESDAY 10, 24		WEDNESDAY 17		THU & SAT 19, 21	
CHORAL EVENSONG 6.30pm		BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ 10-11.30am		FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL: PARISH PLOD 9.30am		SUNDAY 15		CHURCHYARD GARDENING 10am-12noon	
SMwSA Church		Peter & Paul Centre		Peter & Paul Centre		SMwSA Church		SMwSA Church	
TUESDAY 25		WEDNESDAY 25		THURSDAY 10, 24		FRIDAY 27		SUNDAY 15	
FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL: COFFEE 10.30am		5-WK LENT COURSE 11am - 12.30pm		PLAIN & PEARL SOCIAL CRAFTING 7.30pm		NEWSLETTER BUNDLING 2.30pm		ALL-AGE PARISH EUCHARIST 10am	
Shambles Restaurant		Mina Hogan Room		Mina Hogan Room		St. Mary's Parish Hall		SMwSA Church	
March: 4, 11, 18, 25		Peter & Paul Centre		Peter & Paul Centre		Peter & Paul Centre		Peter & Paul Centre	

visit www.teddingtonparish.org for more details

Church (SMwSA): St. Mary with St. Alban, Ferry Road, TW11 9NN

Parish Hall, Mina Hogan Room, Balcony Room and Parish Office: St. Mary's Parish Hall, Langham Road, TW11 9HF

Peter & Paul Centre: Church Road, TW11 8PS

Vicar: Revd. David Cloake: vicar@teddingtonparish.org

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Vicar's Viewpoint

This month sees the price of roses rising and restaurant bookings soaring. Yes – Valentine's Day is almost upon us, the great celebration of love. In England, the celebration tends to be reserved for romantic partners – a chance to express love for each other.

In Finland it's different. I was there on Valentine's Day a few years ago and a couple of students came up and gave me a beautifully decorated cookie and a flower. 'Happy Friendship Day', they proclaimed. Finnish Valentine's Day is for everyone, whether they are in a couple or not. No one is left out.

Sometimes the church feels as though people are left out, as if it's just for Christians with a strong faith and perfect life. But that's far from the truth. It's a community of people who are trying their best to follow the way of Jesus, discovering that we are loved by God. Jesus spent his time meeting and eating with people who were on the margins, the ones that everyone else left out. He chatted with the lonely, the misunderstood, the strangers.

At St. Mary with St. Alban we try to do the same. We are here for everyone – and sometimes that's messy, and sometimes we make mistakes. But we are trying to live the way of Jesus, and you are welcome to join us – male or female, gay or straight, young or old, single or partnered, full of faith or full of questions.

In this month where love is celebrated, we'd love to celebrate God's love with you. Drop in during the week to look around, light a candle, or sit quietly to think or pray. Or join us on a Sunday. We might not be able to offer you Finnish cookies and flowers, but we'd love to welcome you as we explore what faith might look like when we live it together.

Rev Mary Hawes

FEBRUARY 2026

REGULAR SERVICES

SUNDAY
8am: BCP Holy Communion
9am: Morning Worship
10am: Parish Eucharist (+ livestreamed)
12noon: Holy Baptism (most Sundays)

WEDNESDAY
9.30am: Said Eucharist
10.30am: Church Mice Toddler Service

MONDAY to SATURDAY (on Zoom)
Morning Prayer: Mon-Fri: 8.30am,
Sat: 9am
Evening Prayer: Mon-Thu: 6pm,
Fri-Sat: 5pm

THIRD SUNDAY EACH MONTH
10am: All-age Eucharist (+ livestreamed)
6.30pm: Evensong

EVERYDAY (daylight hours)
Church open for private prayer

ASH WEDNESDAY



9.30am | 7.30pm
Said Eucharist
Imposition of Ashes | Sung Eucharist
Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday 18 February

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First Christmas in Holy Orders

"They should have warned us!" came the text message from a fellow curate; it being his first ordained Christmas too. The message made me chuckle, partly because it so perfectly captured the sheer overwhelm of a first Christmas in Holy Orders. And overwhelm there was on every level. It was crazy fun, it was full of exuberance, it was profoundly moving, it was relentlessly busy, it was a social whirl, it was emotionally demanding, it was utterly exhausting. As for fitting in the usual family preparations, needless to say, I didn't manage to send any Christmas cards this year. Apologies to those who usually hear from me – and thank you to my husband for cooking Christmas lunch.



Highlights, alongside the three Crib Services, Midnight Mass, and Christmas Day services, included the Christmas Bazaar, Nine Lessons and Carols complete with orchestra, the Infants Nativity at St. Mary and St. Peter's School, and the oasis of quiet beauty that was The Longest Night service. And although I missed carols at The Anglers, laid up with a horrid cold,



carol singing on the High Street with Churches Together in Teddington was a joy. In fact, the theme for Advent was JOY. And joy in all its fullness, sums up nicely the wellspring of delight, still bubbling up and bathing my senses with awe and wonder (though certain more cynical friends might dismiss it as mild hallucination brought on from exhaustion). I just feel deeply blessed and privileged to be called to this wondrous life that is ministry, and to be welcomed so warmly into such a wonderful community of people. Thank you.

Rev Joy

Memory Café

Set up in 2017, the Memory Café is a free, safe, welcoming and understanding space for those living with dementia, their carers and those



who enjoy good company. The café runs on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 1.30pm – 3pm at the Peter and Paul Centre. Each session offers time for a good chat over tea, coffee and cake, also to take part in a light-hearted quiz and alternate between a sing-along and bingo. Regular guests say how much they appreciate the warm, relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The caring and committed volunteers come from St. Mary with St. Alban as well as other churches and the local community. If you are interested in attending or volunteering, just come along to one of the sessions.

Kay Cassidy

Parish Registers

FUNERALS

We remember with thanksgiving:
12 December: Patricia Reid (88)
9 January: Bidelia Sicklen (84)

Children's Church

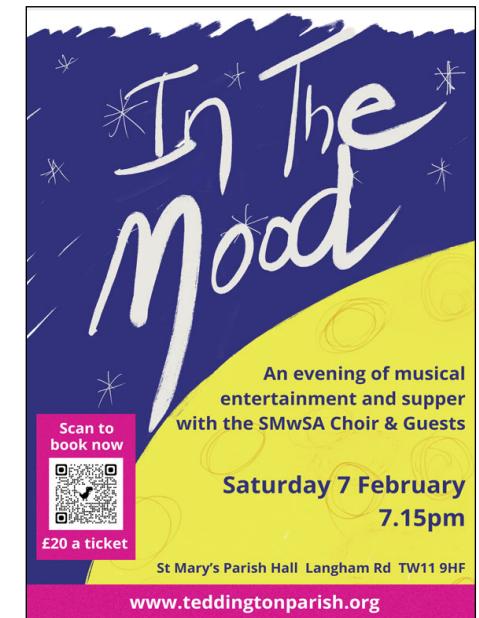
All children are warmly welcomed to the 10am service each Sunday, where they can enjoy Children's Church. After the first hymn, the young people and leaders head to the church hall, and return to join the congregation during the Eucharist, allowing everyone to begin and end the service together.



The sessions are designed to be age-appropriate for all of the children present, including Bible readings and lively discussions. There are many fun activities to enjoy – quizzes, treasure hunts, games, experiments and more – to help young people connect with the message of the Scripture reading in a way that is engaging and memorable. There is often mess, sometimes food and always plenty of laughter.

Children's Church is open to everyone of school age. If your child would like to get involved, or if you are interested in helping lead, we'd love to hear from you. Please do get in touch at: childrenschurch@teddingtonparish.org.

Rev Sarah



Building Anew Project Update

Building works have made exciting progress over the past few weeks. Following demolition of the old choir vestry, excavations for the new extension foundations were completed before Christmas.

Under the watchful eye of an archaeologist on site throughout, these excavations revealed some interesting discoveries, including an old well and an eighteenth-century lead coffin. Fortunately, the coffin lay below the foundation depth and the well was safely backfilled to the structural engineer's satisfaction, causing no delays.

Returning to site in the new year, the contractors wasted no time. The reinforcement steelwork was swiftly put in place, and the concrete foundations successfully poured. Attention then turned to the excavation of the rainwater soakaway, with the location carefully



chosen to avoid churchyard memorials and tree roots, to the approval of the tree consultant on site.

In the weeks ahead, excavations for the drainage pipework will get underway, while the steel framework is fabricated off-site.

For more information about the project and how you can support it, visit our parish website at: www.teddingtonparish.org/facilities-for-all

Steven Randall